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THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 2015

Mayors hold levees

To Port Colborne Mayor John Maloney, the answer to a common complaint he hears simply comes down to math.
Page 3

Butt out

Provincial regulations that kicked in Jan. 1 mean patio puffs have gone up in smoke
Page 6

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Fire destroys cottages



DAN DAVIN/QUI AGENCY NIAGARA

Firefighters look over the charred remains of a waterfront cottage on Beach Rd. Friday morning. Two cottages were destroyed and a third suffered smoke and water damage after a serious fire fuelled by high winds Thursday night. See story and photos on page 2.

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UPFRONT

■ FIRE

Cottage wreckage draws gawkers

\$600,000 fire scene on Wainfleet lakeshore

DAN DAKIN
QMI Agency Niagara

The two fire-ravaged cottages have turned into water-front tourist attractions.

You can spot the gawkers as soon as they turn left onto the small, dead-end Wainfleet street.

Usually holding cellphones up to the window of their car, they slowly make their way down Beach Rd. until they see what they came for on the right-hand side.

The sight of the first home is jarring.

A pile of blackened rubble. A single wall still standing. A blackened lamp post.

It's all that's left of the two-story cottage at 11561 Beach Rd. owned and occupied year-round by a couple of seniors described by neighbours as wonderful people. They phoned 911 when they first saw the flames at about 7:30 p.m. New Year's Day.

The couple made it out safely, then had to sit in a truck across the street watching their dream home with incredible views of Lake Erie burning to the ground.

As nearly 50 firefighters were still deep in their fight to save two more cottages down wind of the blaze, the clock struck midnight. It was now Friday, Jan. 2. The female homeowner's 75th birthday.

The husband and wife were said to be holding up well at a relative's house, where all they're left with is the clothes they were wearing.

The next-door neighbours were more fortunate, but only slightly.

The Fonthill couple's cottage dream home is gone, too, but was only used during the winter months.

Sitting a few feet to the east of the first house, the two-story, four-bedroom cottage stood little chance with the fierce winds blowing off the lake last Thursday night.

Total damage from the fires is estimated at \$600,000.



A Wainfleet firefighter pours water onto the charred remains of a waterfront cottage on Beach Rd. Friday morning. Two cottages were destroyed and a third sustained smoke and water damage after a fire fuelled by high winds Thursday night.



The owners of a cottage that was gutted by fire Thursday night meet with a contractor outside their lakefront home in Wainfleet Saturday.

"They were dousing that (second) house for a long time, but as soon as one of the windows gave way, the fire came through and it went up," said Kirk Sault, who lives nearby and watched the drama unfold.

Wainfleet fire Chief Harry Flagg said the steel roof, installed by the homeowners as they renovated the cottage after buying it, kept the flames from spreading to a third house to the east, owned by a Toronto couple.

As tourists drove past the shell of what remained of the cottage Saturday, the Fonthill couple walked around the perimeter talking to a contractor about how the home could be temporarily secured.

A security guard sat in a car across the street watching the two houses. Neighbours said before he arrived Friday, a stranger walked right into the house that's still standing and began to snoop around.

The owners are too afraid to set foot on the water-logged hardwood floors inside the cottage's first floor. They're worried they'll fall through, or that what's left of the second floor might come crashing down.

The couple bought the cottage five years ago as a family summer getaway.

"We fell in love with it as soon as we saw it," said Iona. The family has asked their last name not be used.

"We just thought it was 'us'. And the inside felt comfortable."

The last time they saw the inside of the home was noon Thursday. They stopped by to make sure all was well, as they try to do once a week or so.

At that moment, everything was fine.

Ten hours later when they returned to Beach Rd. after getting a frantic phone call from friends, everything was anything but fine.

Flames were shooting out the windows and through the roof.

"It was part of us, but it's just a house," Iona said. "That's all you can think of it as."

"You can replace furniture, but you can't replace people."

The family doesn't know yet if any parts of the structure can be salvaged.

"We have to wait and see what the insurance company tells us," her husband said.

One thing they know for sure though, they're staying in this spot, even if it means starting over from scratch.

"This is one of the best spots in the bay," he said.

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IN BRIEF

Xmas tree collection Saturday

Niagara Region is preparing for its annual Christmas tree collection Saturday.

Trees must be placed at the curb no later than 7 a.m. and all decorations, including bulbs, tinsel and lights, must be removed.

Trees cannot be placed on top of or inside a snow bank, and cannot be placed inside a bag.

If pickup is delayed due to weather conditions, residents are advised to leave the tree at the curb or end of the driveway until it is collected.

Christmas trees can also be dropped off at any Niagara landfill free of charge.

For more information, call 1-800-594-5542.

Saturday's collection does not include artificial trees.

Residents wanting to dispose of an artificial tree can use the region's large item collection service by calling 1-855-227-7771.

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LOCAL NEWS

■ **SOUTH NIAGARA:** Focus for both municipalities is on business growth

Wainfleet, Port Colborne mayors host annual levees

■ **POLITICS:** Augustyn will call on councillors to study plan

Pelham mayor wants regional chair elected by public

DAN DAKIN
QMI Agency Niagara

To recently elected Port Colborne Mayor John Maloney, the answer to a common complaint he hears simply comes down to math.

At a new year's levee held Sunday inside council chambers, Maloney said he often hears residents say taxes are too high. He hopes to fix the problem by attracting more businesses and residents to the lakeside city, which would mean the tax burden being spread across more people.

"I'd like to see expanded industrial development and new businesses coming to Port Colborne because this would encourage more residential housing to support those industries," he said. "That will help our tax base."

"The existing citizens are paying a greater load because people are moving out. We have to reverse that."

Among the Port Colborne residents attending the levee was Albert Briand, a reverend who travels a lot and said he tries to preach the message of the city as a tourism destination.

"I'm always trying to promote it," he said. "I find Port Colborne is friendly and you know your neighbours, so we need to be a city of neighbourhood people and reach out. We need to be more open and promote more."

Maloney said the push for more tourism will continue



DAN DAKIN/QMI AGENCY NIAGARA

Port Colborne Mayor John Maloney, left, speaks with resident Albert Briand during the city's annual levee at City Hall Sunday afternoon.

In 2015, the city has marketed itself heavily outside of the region, including in at least one national cycling publication to bring riders to the city's trails and bike paths.

"There are a lot of bicyclists throughout southwest Ontario and certainly they come here and eat at our restaurants, stay in our bed and breakfasts and hotels and then go back and tell their friends. More of that is something we're pursuing," he said.

Also Sunday, Wainfleet Mayor Al Jeffs held his levee at the 2nd Division, a popular eatery on the outskirts of the township.

She used the restaurant of an example of a small business doing well.

"We want to really focus on our businesses because Wain-

fleet isn't really poised for any growth," she said. "There are a lot of smaller businesses, so why not showcase them."

Jeffs believes an area of business growth will be along Wainfleet's waterfront.

"We have these wonderful beaches, so I see the focus there," she said.

Jeffs believes the fight against industrial wind turbines will continue to be an issue in 2015. However, she said after challenging one development in court, at a high cost to the township, she heard the message during her fall mayoral campaign that it was time to take a step back.

"We had people in the municipality who tolerated what we did last year, but then said, 'OK, that's enough.' So there are other people who

are taking up that fight and we'll support them," she said. Jeffs said the only regret she has in fighting the turbine developments was offering to pay \$40,000 of the legal bills for Skydive Burnaby's appeal against one of the projects.

"That was a learning experience. In hindsight, I know where our intentions were with it, but it was the optics of it," said Jeffs.

In the end, the offer was rescinded and the township didn't pay any of the money. "Another complaint Jeffs has heard recently was Wainfleet's lack of a nursing home or retirement facility, which she hopes to put on the radar as a longer-term goal.

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ROB HOULE
QMI Agency Niagara

Pelham's mayor has served notice he wants council to debate how the next regional chair will be chosen.

Dave Augustyn advised council he will bring forward a motion about the election of the regional chair.

Augustyn had not yet framed the motion, but it will ask fellow councillors to support having the chair directly elected by the public.

It will also direct staff to set the legislative wheels in motion.

"I've heard so much since I've written about this (on his blog) and since the election of the chair... I think Niagara is ready to open things up and have a vote across the public so we directly elect the regional chair," Augustyn said.

Current practice is for councillors to elect a chair from among their peers. That's how Alan Cassin of St. Catharines was elected earlier this month, replacing Gary Burroughs.

Durham Region moved to a directly elected chair for the first time Oct. 27.

Other regions that directly elect a chair are Halton and Waterloo, Peel and York follow the same process as Niagara.

"It seems to be the direction we're going in..." The time for appointments among peers, I think, is over," Augustyn said. "We need to move to a more democratic system in Niagara for electing the top leadership role."

"Unfortunately, the way the system is now can lend itself to backroom deals and promises of votes... and party politics has the potential to creep in. So I think we need to open it up and

let (voters) in Niagara decide."

He said a directly elected chair would allow the public to talk about the type of vision they have for Niagara and raise the profile of what Niagara Region does.

"This can be a real unifying force to help bring Niagara together," Augustyn said.

He said last term he opposed changing the method of electing a chair because he feared party politics would drive campaigns.

"They are involved now, and they are involved in the backroom. Far better to have them out in the open and everybody knows they're there," Augustyn said.

How the regional chair is elected is not on the front-burner for new regional councillor Sandy Annunziata of Port Erie.

"Maybe some councillors want to see democratic reform at the region. Me, I just want to see economic development," he said, noting he is more interested in seeing the province institute democratic reform, such as public recall rights in which voters can remove an elected official before their term is over.

"I hope there isn't too much discussion around democratic reforms that sidetrack people in understanding what the real issues are."

Longtime regional councillor George Marshall of Welland said he is fine with how things stand.

"What we've done is permissible under the Municipal Act, and I don't think we have to carry it any further," Marshall said.

"We elected a chair, it was clear, unequivocal, I have no desire to reverse or play games."

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■ I'VE BEEN THINKING

A new calendar's pages are ready to be filled

REV. THOMAS R. ARTH
First Evangelical Lutheran Church

I'm writing this on New Year's Day. I've been up for about four hours. I barely made it past midnight.

I'm getting over a bout with the flu so I didn't have the energy that I would have liked to have to enjoy the party.

On this morning I dragged myself out of bed after nine or so good hours of sleep. My wife prepared us apple turnovers, cinnamon rolls and waffles for breakfast. Yum. I've checked all the Facebook greetings and best wishes for the new year. The wind is howling outside but we're safe and sound, sheltered from the elements, enjoying a quiet, do-nothing day.

I wrote a post on Facebook that said:

"Happy new year, everybody. Some pretty nasty stuff happened in our world in 2014. Here's hoping and praying that the angel message of 'peace on earth' will take hold more in 2015."

The first day of a new year is really a rather arbitrary starting point when looking to the future. Every day is actually the beginning of a new year. For many, Labour Day and the return to school is recognized as a new beginning. But the turn of the calendar, the drop of the big ball, the new number in our dates is a good opportunity for looking at things in a new way.

Our church treasurer bought me a new desk calendar a few months ago when she was purchasing other office supplies. I always like new calendars. I started right away writing things into the squares that I knew were

already on the schedule. A wedding booked for September. Some vacation time that's already planned for the summer. Checking when Easter falls this spring (April 5).

A new calendar has a freshness about it, like a new notebook that hasn't been written in, a brand new book that hasn't had the spine cracked or the pages dog-eared, that jar or peanut butter or tub of margarine that hasn't had a knife dipped into it. That's what a new year might hold out for us, too. OK, so we're a week into it by the time you read this, but there are another 51 weeks of 2015 to go. What are we going to make of it?

I kind of barked at my wife over something stupid just before I went up to bed on New Year's Eve. She came up later, before I had fallen asleep, and I apologized because that was no way to start a year fresh. I started

that calendar with a silly smudge in the first square but erased it with her forgiveness.

This can become a year filled with grace. How will those calendar squares get filled in? Will they be scribbled full of notes of anger, jealousy, greed, judgment and the like? Or will we fill them with love, peace, compassion, forgiveness and the like? God's attitude toward us is a gracious one and we, in turn, can make that our attitude toward others.

So if we start that way in our homes, in our closest relationship, then it can spill out to our community and the world. Then maybe the message we heard a couple of weeks ago or read on greeting cards, the angel song of peace on earth, goodwill to all, and joy to the world will really take hold. That's God's gift to us. Let's pass it on.

Happy new year.

Shipwrecks — Algoma Progress

SKIP GILLHAM
For QMI Agency Niagara

When a ship sails for 46 years there are bound to be a few scrapes along the way.

The *Algoma Progress*, which passed upbound in the Welland Canal for the final time on Dec. 30, 2014, had a few under the previous name of *Canadian Progress* but none were serious.

The 222.50-metre-long self-unloader was built in St. Catharines and commissioned at Port Weller Dry Docks in July 1968. It departed the shipyard to load coal for Toronto in August and carried on in the aggregates trades for the rest of its career.

Canadian Progress sustained fire damage in the engine room at Toronto on Jan. 4, 1973, ran aground in the St. Lawrence River east of Ogdensburg, N.Y., on April 23, 1985, and was stranded on Ballard's Reef while trying to dodge a tug/barge combination in the Detroit River on Dec. 11, 1988.

The ship moved from Upper Lakes Shipping to Algoma Central Corp. in 2011 and spent its final four years as *Algoma Progress*. Following a sale to International Marine Salvage, the ship arrived at Port Colborne on Dec. 30 for dismantling and recycling in 2015.



BARRY ANDERSEN/SUPPLIED PHOTO

The last trip of *Algoma Progress*.

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LOCAL NEWS

■ ONTARIO

Region wants province to pony up SAMS cash

ROB HOULE
QMI Agency Niagara

It's your fault, so you pay.
Niagara Region politicians have passed a motion requesting the province reimburse the local government for the full costs incurred because of problems associated with a new social assistance software program.

A provincial government described "glitch" with its new \$240-million Social Assistance Management System (SAMS), which was

installed by the Ministry of Community and Social Services on Nov. 6, resulted in millions of dollars in over-payments and payments going to incorrect addresses.

The region administrators the Ontario Works program for the province at a 50-50 cost share and because of the software issues, social services staff have incurred and are expected to continue to incur overtime for an indeterminate period, social services commissioner Katherine

Chislett told councillors.

"To the best of our knowledge, our clients got all the money they needed and the cheques got out on time," Chislett said in answer to Niagara-on-the-Lake Coun. Gary Burroughs, who wanted assurance people receiving Ontario Works benefits received them. "There may be some we missed — the nature of the records and the data produced (from the new software) make it impossible to tell. But staff have been

following up diligently line by line with every single client to get them their money."

In October, there were 10,400 Ontario Works cases in Niagara, representing 21,500 people.

The motion agreed to by council was actually supposed to be a notice of motion by Pelham Mayor Dave Augustyn that he would be bringing the matter to the next council meeting in January, but since the issue was deemed an urgent one,

councillors voted to expedite it and deal with it before Christmas.

"I'd like to thank staff for getting our residents those dollars," Fort Erie Coun. Sandy Annunziata said, "especially during the holidays. I'm sure there is a lot of stress on families because of glitches in the system."

The motion states that while the province has committed to reimburse the region up to \$156,300, that amount may be insufficient

because there is no timetable for the system to be normalized.

"We don't know when the system is going to stabilize," Chislett said. "We can't tell you what the finite cost is. Every day we are still continuing to get messages from the province with system problems."

"We don't know when this is going to end."

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■ **ONTARIO:** Smoking on restaurant and bar patios now illegal

Niagara rings in new smoking law

DAN DAKIN
QMI Agency Niagara

The bitter cold didn't stop a handful of dedicated cigar aficionados from ringing in both 2015 and new smoking regulations Wednesday night.

What was supposed to be an old-fashioned scotch and cigar party on the patio at Iggy's Pub and Grub in Fonthill turned into a few smokers brave enough to stand outside in the cold.

The party was a sendoff to Ontario's former smoking regulations, which changed at the stroke of midnight Jan. 1, making it illegal to smoke on any restaurant or bar patio. It's also now illegal to smoke

at publicly-owned outdoor sports and recreational facilities, but in Niagara that had already been covered under a regional bylaw.

Matt and Jen Speight, who own Iggy's on Hwy. 20 in Fonthill, decided to have some fun with the rule change, even though they're not particularly happy about it.

Like many restaurant and bar owners, the Speights see the new rules as causing more problems than they'll fix.

"We would rather it be up to the bar. We're not a full-swing restaurant where we're getting people sitting on the patio having a full meal. Mostly people want to sit out there and have a drink and a

smoke," Matt Speight said. Speight is worried patrons will try to sneak drinks out to the sidewalk while they smoke.

"We're responsible and we get fined for it if there's an issue, so we'll have to enforce the front door," he said. "At the same time, they could be walking out on their bill because they're going out for a smoke."

Scott Hill, the co-owner of both Cat's Caboose in St. Catharines and Cat's in Niagara Falls, said he's fine with the new rules, but agreed they could cause problems.

"I think it's a good thing, and I'm a smoker," he said.

"It's great for families and kids, that's how we looked at it when smoking left the (inside of) restaurants. It didn't hurt us, it helped us."

Hill's concern is where the smokers will go to light up.

"Am I going to have security here on the patio to stop people from smoking? We don't own the property around the restaurant, so what if someone is smoking on the landlord's property?"

In St. Catharines, we're surrounded by a parking lot," he said.

Hill also wonders where his staff will go to smoke. "I guess productivity will be up because they won't be able to smoke," he said with a laugh.

"Over the long haul, it will be a good thing, but it's going to affect us."

Unlike some past smoking rule-changes, Niagara's casinos aren't exempt. Niagara Fallsview Casino Resort spokesman Greg Medulian confirmed the patios at 21 Club, R5 and Golden Lotus all went smoke-free Jan. 1.

Under the new laws, anyone caught smoking on a restaurant or bar patio could be fined up to \$350. The new regulations are meant to make it more difficult to buy and smoke tobacco.

"These changes are to protect kids and youth from accessing tobacco products and the harmful effects of smoking, and to protect the people of Ontario from exposure to tobacco use," said

WHAT YOU SAID

Comments from QMI Agency Niagara Facebook pages and websites.

"More government intervention. Another money grab." Dave Middleton

"Second hand smoke is the primary issue. Smoking is more invasive to those in the immediate area. It's as simple as that. There are many smokers who are considerate of their smoke blowing habits but many others who aren't." The Flagger

"This is not going to stop. I think it will come down to smokers taking a stand. Enough is enough. I agree with non-smoking

restaurants. I agree with protecting the children on playgrounds. But bar patios, that is stupid. I think that an owner should have the right to post if it is a smoking patio or not. Then the patron decides if he or she wants to go in." John Hudak

"Banning in parks or government is great, but bar patios, they're crossing the line and I don't even smoke." Simon Appleton

"Although I think this is fantastic, I still don't understand how they're going to monitor it. They can't even catch people smoking in their cars with their kids inside." Stacey Baker

Andrew Robertson, a spokesman for associate health minister Dipika Damerla. "Making smoking less visible will make it seem less socially acceptable to kids and can reduce the likelihood that they start smoking."

The vast majority of Ontario residents support banning smoking on playgrounds and sports fields, he added.

Some of the more controversial measures are still to come.

Ontario intends to ban the sale of flavoured tobacco, including the popular menthol brands, within a few years.

NDP MPP France Gelin, who has pushed hard for a ban on flavoured tobacco, said these products are developed specifically to create a new generation of young smokers.

— with files from QMI Agency

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LOCAL NEWS

BIRTHS



Proud parents Jon and Rachel Whyte and sister Adelaide welcomed Isaac Douglas Whyte into the world on New Year's Day. Weighing in at 7 pounds, 11 ounces, Isaac was the first baby born in Niagara on January 1.

BOB TYMCZYNSKY/QMI AGENCY NIAGARA

Little Isaac the region's first baby of 2015

BOB TYMCZYNSKY
QMI Agency Niagara

Isaac Whyte was not expected to enter the world on the first day of 2015.

He was due Dec. 30, said mom Rachel Whyte, who gave birth at 5:26 a.m. on Jan. 1.

"We didn't really think it was going to be the first baby because midnight passed and we thought there's got to be another one born by now," said Whyte.

"I had no real thought that he was going to be first."

Just after 2 a.m., Whyte woke up husband Jon in their Thorold home telling him she was having labour pains. The couple arrived at the hospital at 4 a.m. Isaac was born less than two hours later.

"It was very straight forward, no complications, we were lucky," she said.

The couple had had a quiet New Year's Eve.

"We had dinner with friends, it was an early night. We were home by 8:30, not a very eventful night," said Jon.

"We went to bed thinking we weren't going to be having the new year's baby, and here we are. We're very excited."

Jon admitted to being a bit out of practice as he pressed the 7 lb. 11 ounce Isaac.

As they snuggled up for a family photo, 2-1/2-year-old sister Adelaide was more excited just to have a baby brother than knowing it was New Year's Day.

Mom and dad haven't ruled out plans for more children.

"Just ask me again in a few weeks," said Rachel.

bob.tymczynsky@summedia.ca
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WINEFEST

Twenty Valley Winter Winefest this weekend

BOB TYMCZYSZYN
QMI Agency Niagara

Temperatures have plummeted and there could not be a better time for the sixth annual Twenty Valley Winter WineFest that kicks off Friday and continues Saturday and Sunday on the first weekend of the month-long Niagara Icewine Festival.

"We're super excited," said Sue-Ann Staff, president of Twenty Valley Tourism Association and owner and winemaker of Sue-Ann Staff Estate Winery.

"It's the first time we've had a Friday night event. We go to all this effort so we thought why not spread the love and enjoy one more day."

Canadian Country Music Association 2013 female artist of the year Kira Isabella headlines the ticketed event Friday night with wines and food trucks on site in Jordan Village.

Chef Michael Smith will be presenting a four-course plated dinner in the Windows Room of Cave Spring and the following

day, a three-course brunch as well as a cooking demonstration and book signing.

Organizers are expecting ideal weather. "For the icewine festival we hope to have some cold weather," said Staff. "There will be an ice sculpture demonstration going on, so it would be nice to have some cold weather for him."

"We may be in height of icewine harvest as well, which is unusual when the two collide like this and it will make for some very busy days for those in the industry."

And Staff will be getting best barrel rolling outfit ready which she calls a bit of a spectacle and one of the best draws for the weekend.

"If I'm not in the barrel-rolling contest I will get hate mail. I have to win these golden blunnies," she added.

For more information about the event, see www.20valley.ca/page/winter_winefest.

bob.tymczynsyzyn@sumedia.ca
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■ **UNIVERSITY:** \$1.2-million gift from former board chair

Brock in bronze: Icon's sculpture coming together

QMI Agency Niagara

A \$1.2-million sculpture of Brock University's namesake is taking shape on the U.S. West Coast.

The six-metre-tall bronze sculpture of War of 1812 Major Gen. Sir Isaac Brock — a gift

from longtime university supporter and former board chair David Howes — will be placed in front of the Schmon Tower once complete.

The piece, by renowned Canadian sculptor Danek Mozdzenski, is in its final stages of production, the uni-

versity said in a news release. University officials will be informed of a firm completion date in the new year.

Photos from the Oregon foundry where the sculpture is being completed were also released.

More than 100 compo-

nent parts of the artist's design have been cast in bronze and must be fitted together. When the complete

statue is approved by the artist, a surface patina and lacquer finish will be applied.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

In the foundry, the general awaits his completion.



The base of the bronze sculpture features Brock's boot, on the floor is his hat.

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LOCAL NEWS

■ **HEALTH:** Niagara Region public health gets \$1.825M infusion

More cash for mental health programs

ROB HOULE
QMI Agency Niagara

Niagara Region public health is set to receive an extra \$1.825 million for mental health services.

The bulk of the money, \$1.425 million, will go toward a second regional assertive community treatment team, or ACTT. The balance is earmarked for early intervention services for young adults age 16 and over.

The Region currently has one ACTT team, which consists of 12 mental-health professionals including a psychiatrist, nurses, social workers and occupational therapists "who work with people who have serious mental health problems, who do not respond to more traditional treatment," said Adrienne Jugley, the public health department's director of clinical services.

Traditional treatment, she said, involves clients seeking help with psychiatrists and follow-up visits with counsellors and nurses.

"Some clients don't do well with that," Jugley said.

They are so unwell, their symptoms prevent them from doing well with those more traditional services. The ACTT team reaches out to those clients. It brings all the treatment services into their home, or wherever they're comfortable."

The ACTT team can bring services to those clients up to seven days per week, Jugley said.

She said the ACTT model was implemented in the province approximately 25 years ago as a means of keeping people with mental health issues out of hospital.

"These are people who are the most unwell, typically, and have huge hospitalization histories. We have clients who have as many as two years worth of hospitalization in the prior two years to coming on with us," Jugley said.

She said following ACTT team inter-

vention, there is an 86% reduction in client hospitalization.

"The results are really quite remarkable. If you show fidelity to the model ... you will see amazing outcomes for those clients," Jugley said, noting the existing ACTT is stretched thin, servicing 80 to 100 clients.

According to his population, Niagara should have three assertive community treatment teams, Jugley said.

She said the money for the new team is the result of lobbying the Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant Local Health Integration Network over the past two years.

A new team will allow public health to whittle down a growing wait list that has people suffering severe mental disorders, such as schizophrenia, waiting six months to a year to be seen by someone from ACTT.

The balance of the new money, \$400,000, will go toward early intervention services for young adults.

The current early intervention service provides rapid, comprehensive assessment and treatment to young people showing early signs of psychosis.

The new money will expand the service to people with other mental health concerns.

"That focus will be on young adults — late teens to early 20s — and will be people showing first signs of mental health concerns, as well as transitional age youth. Those would be young people leaving the children's mental health system and going into the adult one," Jugley said.

"If you intervene early and you have great outcomes there, you hope to reduce the need for services that are much more intense and long-term. Ideally, you want to put efforts into those early services to reduce the need for the more intensive ones later on."

The new funding brings the public health department's budget for its mental health programs to \$5.9 million.



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LOCAL NEWS

WORDS TO REMEMBER

Say what! A collection of the most memorable quotes and one-liners from 2014

QMI Agency Niagara

Great quotes punctuate a story like nothing else, breathing life into it.

Funny, tragic, poignant — here are some of the most memorable lines from 2014.

"There's a wow factor here."

— MPP Jim Bradley at the Oct. 11 official opening of the Meridian Centre arena in St. Catharines.

"I thought we were done. The house shook, the lights started flickering and then it lit up like it was broad daylight."

— Niagara Falls resident Terry D'Reilly, who believes lightning rods in the ground in front of his home saved his life during a storm June 29.

"I love life and I love being old. I do what I want and I don't have to ask anybody."

— Jessie Kozachenco, 87, on May 24 at the Rankin Cancer Run, which she has participated in since learning she had cancer nine years ago.

"It's All Welland Good."

— A signature T-shirt and catchphrase invented by Jay Kalfayian, after he grew tired of hearing people swap negative words about his hometown. An All Welland Good event in October drew 600 people.

"This is crazy, I feel like I've been given a brain by the Wizard of Oz."

— St. Catharines native musician Ron Seasmith, 50, receiving an honorary degree from Brock University on June 3.

"I would tell you, 'Suck it up,' but you might freeze your lungs."

— Environment Canada senior climatologist Oave Phillips, joking about the extreme cold used to hit Niagara on Jan. 20.

"The Ontario PC party remains strong."

— Niagara West-Brampton



MIKE DIAMATTA / QMI AGENCY NIAGARA

Welland Tribune reporter Marianne Firth was shocked when she realized the mystery story of the pink hearts she was covering, turned out to be a marriage proposal from her fiancé Ryan St. Denis. The story on the Sun Media newspaper websites in Niagara had been viewed by more than 200,000 people around the world. The couple talked about the plan and how it unfolded.

north of Barrie on June 25. He stopped breathing, had his leg amputated, was in a coma and endured six surgeries.

"I had an eerie feeling. This doesn't look good, I really don't like this."

— Marlene Hart of Grimsby describing her reaction to seeing a young boater offshore in Lake Ontario on May 18, moments before she and her husband Don Hart saved his life. The 17-year-old without a life jacket was in a sinking boat he built with instructions from the internet.

"It's almost like saying, which one of your children do you love the best?"

— St. Catharines mayor Brian McMillan in an interview on Nov. 12, when asked which city project was his favourite.

"I was kneeling, because the smoke was so thick. It was halfway down the door and I was screaming. My throat is still sore. You could hear the popping, the snapping and the cracking. It was on the verge of flashing over, and they wouldn't have gotten out. It would have been a recovery."

— Randy Smith, a facility maintenance worker with the City of St. Catharines, who with co-worker Rick Hesulak helped save a family from their burning home at the corner of Lake St. and James St. early on the morning of Jan. 9.

"As a reporter, I pride myself on being able to get to the bottom of things."

— Welland Tribune reporter Marianne Firth, who was sent to cover her own proposal at Chippawa Park on June 8. Firth had been writing about mysterious pink heart signs posted all over Welland — unknown to her, they were posted by boyfriend Ryan St. Denis. Firth had been assigned to cover an announcement about the hearts that was supposed to be made in the park that day.

Compiled by Karina Walker, QMI Agency Niagara

MPP Tim Hudak on election night June 12, announcing he would step down as Ontario Progressive Conservative leader after a scandal-polluted Liberal government defeated his PCs to win a majority win that night.

"Because this is life on the edge. If you're not going to live life on the edge, get off!" — David Hurst, sitting in the "suicide seating" section of the Niagara Roller Girls roller derby rink on June 21.

"I was gagging the whole time."

— Roseanne Whalen of Fort Erie, describing to police what it was like digging up her toddler Marissa from a hidden grave to remove evidence. The Oct. 14, 2011 video was played for the jury in her second-degree murder trial on March 31. She was found guilty and sentenced to life without parole for 15 years.

"They never stopped. They never gave up. They saved Shane's life."

— Karl Nelson, the father of 21-year-old Welland man Shane Nelson, speaking in January about the efforts of Shane's co-workers, paramedics and emergency department medical staff to revive him after an hour without vital signs. Nelson was born with Wolff-Parkinson-White syndrome, a congenital heart abnormality.

"You would think there is

something wrong with eating wonton at 5 a.m., but there is never a wrong time when you have it here."

— Customer David Walker, among the first in line when the popular Niagara Falls doughnut/wonton soup shop Country Fresh Donuts reopened on Nov. 12 after a car crashed through its front doors in April.

"I do use adrenaline to perform, but you should also have respect for the fear."

— Enrique Valencio, performer of death-defying acts high above the skyline of the City in Niagara Summer of Thrills, speaking on June 26.

"We was on fire and I remember it was really, really hot."

— Cindy Campbell testifying in court April 28 about the July 2011 day her ex-boyfriend Mark Borel set her on fire outside Rockway Community Centre in Lincoln. A jury found the St. Catharines man guilty of attempted murder in late May and he was sentenced to 19½ years in prison.

"If you have quality of care, but not a quality of caring, that is not success. You need both, and we're not there yet."

— Kevin Smith, CEO of the Niagara Health System, in an interview in January.

"She loved me without reserve, in a way that only daughters love their mothers. I will never be loved in that

way again."

— Colleen Hood, the mother of 19-year-old Maddie Hood of St. Catharines, reading a victim impact statement on Feb. 11 in court. Cassell Farnsworth was given life in prison with no chance of parole for 12 years for beating, strangling and stabbing Maddie before setting her apartment on fire in July 2012.

"I'm still around. I must have a purpose."

— Jimmy (MacNeil) Hattie, who deals with poverty and addiction, interviewed for QMI's Faces of Poverty series, during a moment of sobriety in Niagara Falls in November.

"I will not settle for a D. I will not accept 134th. And I know that you won't. Now is the time for action — bold and swift."

— St. Catharines Mayor Walter Szendzik at his inaugural address Dec. 1, referring to the D grade the city received from the Conference Board of Canada and its ranking when measured by economy.

"None of us brought our gloves and hockey sticks, that's why we're getting along."

— Thorold regional Councillor Henry D'Angela at a Dec. 3 debate at the Gale Centre in Niagara Falls for four candidates for Niagara Region chair.

"I agree! Do you?"

— Niagara West-Brampton Liberal candidate David Mossey's Facebook post, which he removed and apologized for on May 12. The post from March 2013 showed photos of two scantily clad women's behinds, said to demonstrate the difference between posters of women who do squats and those who don't.

"It was like daylight on that side of the house, and I thought, 'Well, something's up. I wondered why it was so bright outside. Then I saw there were flames shooting 20 feet out of the house.'"

— Niagara on the Lake resident Wayne Mayers who saw his neighbour's home on fire on April 20 for the second time that same weekend.

"He was a firefighter's firefighter. He had the respect of the rank and file. He walked in their boots and they respected that."

— Mayor Brian McMillan, speaking of St. Catharines fire chief Mark Meinenbacher, who died July 18 at age 55 of cancer.

"I'm just a guy who survived an accident. I'm quite sure I could have died that day, but I made it because of faith and luck."

— Niagara OPP officer Pete Tucker on Nov. 17, speaking publicly for the first time after being hit by a goose while participating in a motorcycle training exercise on Hwy. 400



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64 x 41 x 83" h.
84-4923-0.

SAVE
40%



Sale \$119.99 **Reg 199.99**
Cap Barbell Bench with
100-lb Weight Set.
84-0542-0.

Sale \$59.99 **Reg 99.99**
4-Position Utility Bench.
Military, incline,
flat and decline.
84-0775-6.

ONLY
47%



47.99 Adjustable 40-lb Dumbbell Set
with Case. 84-0760-0.



SAVE
60%



Sale \$999.99
Reg 2499.99
AFG 5.3AT Treadmill.
20 x 60" deck.
2.75-CHP motor.
84-4929-4.



Sale \$959.99
Reg 2399.99
AFG 3.3AE
Elliptical Trainer.
20 levels of resistance.
20 levels of power incline.
20" stride.
84-4928-0.



Sale \$559.99
Reg 1399.99
AFG 7.3AU
Upright Bike.
8.8-lb flywheel.
Oversized seat
and multiple
adjustments.
84-4931-0.



Sale \$639.99
Reg 1599.99
AFG 7.3AR
Recumbent Bike.
8.8-lb flywheel.
84-4932-8.

SAVE
60%



Sale \$799.99
Reg 1999.99
AFG 7.3AC Indoor
Cycle. 44-lb
flywheel. Vertical
and horizontal
seat adjustment.
4" LCD display.
84-4933-5.

SAVE
60%



Sale \$1239.99
Reg 3099.99
AFG 7.3AT Treadmill.
20 x 60" running
surface. 16" hi-res
touchscreen
display.
84-4927-2.

SAVE
60%



Sale \$594.99
Reg 1488.99
Horizon CE4.4
Elliptical Trainer. 10
levels of resistance.
14.3-lb flywheel. 18"
stride.
84-0561-4.

SAVE
60%



Sale \$799.99
Reg 1999.99
Horizon CE8.8
Elliptical Trainer.
17.6-lb flywheel.
20" stride length.
16 levels.
84-4925-5.

12 EQUAL MONTHLY PAYMENTS NO FEE* NO INTEREST FINANCING

When you spend \$200 or more* storewide



*See store for details.

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